



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/718,790 | 11/24/2003 | Minoru Sato | 02910.000102 | 1578 |
| 5514 | 7590 | 07/20/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112 | | | BEATTY, ROBERT B | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2852 | |

DATE MAILED: 07/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

RD

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/718,790 | SATO ET AL | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Robert Beatty | 2852 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. Claims 13-16 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 11/1/2005.

2. Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-12,17-18 in the reply filed on 11/1/2005 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that there would be no undue effort if all the claims were examined. This is not found persuasive because claims 13-16 claim features not found in the elected claims which would require searches in areas not needed for the elected claims.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

3. Claims 3-4,9 are objected to because of the following informalities:

in claim 2, the applicant claims for additional "restricting portions" but from applicant's specification page 23, lines 7-10 and page 37, lines 1-3 this seems to be the projections (abutment portions) and therefore there is no additional structural element but rather just another function of the abutment portions;

claim 3 is unclear in that the applicant claims limitations regarding the distance from the abutment portions to the receiving portions and specifically it being the "largest of all lengths" It is believed that this distance should be essentially zero since they are in contact with each other during part movement;

in claim 4, line 2, insert -- provided on the preceding part -- before "to";

in claim 9, lines 2-3 seems to describe the charging member supporting the photosensitive member which is inaccurate;

Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-5, 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Szuba.

Szuba teach movable fixtures (parts) such as a cylinder head 27 (see Fig 2) which are arranged with preceding and succeeding parts in a transport direction. Each fixture part will have non-functional mechanical locators at least at either end of the fixture part which mate so as to position the parts relative to themselves and a machining station. See col.4, lines 7-27. For example a locator points 26 (abutment portion) mates with features on downstream fixtures. The act of the locator point mating with other fixtures inherently means there is some kind of receiving portion on the downstream fixture for the abutment portion. These mechanical locators are required to have geometrically precise dimensions in order for a mating relationship. The method of supplying these fixtures in a transport

direction by the mating of features is suggested by this structure. The mating features may also be called retaining features of both the preceding and succeeding parts which retain the parts in a mating relationship. The mating relationship will inherently prevent movement in a direction perpendicular to the transport direction.

5. Claims 6-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Derouiche, Aoki et al., Esaki, Inaba et al., Ogino et al., JP# '162, and Akutsu (JP) teach various supply transports for parts.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Beatty whose telephone number is (571) 272-2130. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Gray, can be reached on (571) 272-2119. The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Beatty', with a long, sweeping diagonal line extending from the end of the signature towards the top right corner of the page.

Robert Beatty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

July 17, 2006